

MINUTES

Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Task Force Thursday February 5, 2009 Council Chambers Municipal Building 93 Cottage Street

I. Call to Order at 8:32 AM

Members present: Chair Paul Paradis; Vice-Chair Chris Fogg; Secretary Anne Krieg; Police Chief Nathan Young; Harbormaster Charlie Phippen, Greg Veilleux; Fred Cook; Bob Bahr; Mary Opdyke; George Seavey; Amy Powers; Greg Gordon

II. Excused Absences

There were none.

III. Minutes

- A. January 22, 2009 minutes were approved without editions.**

IV. Adoption of agenda

V. Staff Reports

- A. Report on February 2, 2009 Council action regarding CSSTF recommendations.**

The Chair indicated the Council accepted the recommendations.

VI. Regular Business

- A. Continue discussion with Ocean Properties on future plans for West Street and service to Cruise Ship tenders and passengers.**

Ocean Properties was not present.

- B. Evaluate Harbor Master's Cruise Vessel Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document, recommend changes and forward to Harbor Committee and Town Council for formal adoption.**

i. Tendering Operations

Group discussed ideas for meeting with ship personnel when they first arrive.

Young noted the key is to contact the ship operations and being present to police the situation in the field.

ii. Vessel Public Announcement Signals

Phippen said that he only gets one complaint a year on this, noting that it depends on the wind. He indicated that if the SW wind is prevailing, it blows the sound in the other direction. He opined that this was not a high priority concern.

iii. Communication of SOP

Phippen gives it to the vessels as well as agents.

He uses the SOP to provide awareness on items like emergency services.

He said the SOP is mailed to agent and then he asks for it to be distributed to the vessel. If it changes, he sends out a new one

iv. Enforcement

It was noted that perhaps the SOP should send to Councilors and to the industry beyond the agents

C. Where are we? - Review of CSSTF Pending Issues as of 11/24/08 document.

i. Review of 2008 Cruise Ship Season – *completed*

ii. Taxi Tours operations - evaluate how the plan worked at end of fiscal year

Evaluate locations and make management recommendations for following year.

iii. Way-Finding Maps and Signage

Provide an increase in way-finding signage throughout the town in key locations to provide to provide information and encourage pedestrian movement and flow throughout the community, specifically tourism and retail areas.

Group discussed this effort. Fogg and Gordon will work on it with staff, that is, Krieg, Phippen and Young.

v. Bus Idling and enforcement of standards for non cruise tours

This requires constant monitoring and enforcement. The use of green buses was discussed. Gordon will report back on industry standards and needs.

vi. Placement of Police officers

The group will continue to leave this decision to staff.

vii. Evaluate Cruise Vessel Standard Operating Procedures document, recommend changes and forward to Town Council for formal adoption- *completed*

1. Tendering Operations
2. Vessel Public Announcement Signals
3. Communication of SOP
4. Enforcement

viii. Sidewalk Enhancements and Streetscape Improvements – *recommendations made*

- 1. Street furniture**
- 2. Litter and Recycling Bins –**

Krieg will work with Public Works. Keep on the agenda as updates.

- 3. Accessibility
- 4. Improvements to Improve Congestion
- ix. **Pedestrian Zone - *completed***
 - Evaluate and make recommendation on area in front of Harbor Place.
- x. **Surveys –**
 - UMaine as a possible partner was discussed. Powers will call. There is a need to update old survey. Powers will obtain surveys from cruise lines.
 - 1. **Resident survey**
 - This might be helpful to do after implementation of changes
 - 2. **Visitor Satisfaction**
 - 3. **Visitor Spending**
- xi. **Industry Networking Recommendations**
 - Seatrade will have no town representative. The state is sending someone. It was noted that attending is showing that the town is part of industry operations. It was noted that it is more important to go to Cruise Line International Association (CLIA) and Canada-New England meetings.
 - It was noted that the operations budget from the fees called for staff rep at 2 events, Fall and June
- xii.
 - Seavey requested to add **Environmental Monitoring**
 - There was no one to take that on with the closing of the MDI Water Quality Coalition. It was questioned if this still necessary. It was also questioned if we should re-direct those funds. The Destination Management Plan has said to continue monitoring. It was further noted that there are already discharge laws from the federal and state government. It was noted that both DEP and Coast Guard monitor. These points were discussed at length. It was noted that the testing needs to be done professionally. Staff will contact Natalie Springuel of the Marine Resource Committee and Jane Disney.
- xiii.
 - Seavey added **security** and Cook added that we should be monitoring and receiving updated on the **T105 facility** by the Town of Bar Harbor. Young is waiting for on-site inspection.

D. Walking Map - Report from walking map sub-committee – *no update*

VII. Public Comment

Powers indicated that the \$50/ head fee in Alaska is hitting the industry and the current economy is hurting the industry. It is not known if this will affect New England.

Veilleux noted that the proposed sign at Main and Mount Desert might get lost against the building and with the Hospital sign that is difficult to see.

VIII. Items for next agenda – *as noted above*

IX. Set next meeting time, date and place

A. 8:30 AM, February 26, 2009 in Council Chambers. – This meeting is cancelled

B. 8:30 AM March 5, 2009

C. 8:30 AM April 16, 2009 at 2009

X. Adjournment at 10:20 AM by a motion from Young and a second from Gordon

These minutes were prepared by Anne Krieg, Secretary to the Cruise Ship Study Task Force for distribution at the April 16, 2009 meeting.